

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1384

By Winningham

A RESOLUTION to name a bridge on State Route 63 in Scott County in honor of the late Corporal Rusty Lee Washam, United States Marine Corps.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no soldier is more deserving of this honor than the late Corporal Rusty Lee Washam, who was killed in action while performing combat operations in Iraq on February 14, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Rusty Lee Washam followed the patriotic tradition for which Scott County and the Volunteer State are renowned by serving with distinction in the United States Marine Corps (USMC); and

WHEREAS, a proud American and a proud United States Marine, Corporal Rusty Lee Washam was engaged in a special security mission in Iraq as a member of the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, USMC, at the time of his death; he had previously served with distinction in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Washam received numerous decorations for his courageous service as a Marine, including the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism (Service), and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon; and

WHEREAS, a 2003 graduate of Scott County High School, Rusty Lee Washam was a loving son, husband, and father; and

WHEREAS, like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, Corporal Washam did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and to free an oppressed people; and

WHEREAS, only twenty-one years of age at the time of his death, Corporal Washam served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, this brave Marine deserves proper recognition; and

WHEREAS, Rusty Lee Washam's dedication to excellence in the USMC and his love for his family, his fellow Marines, and his country, as exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate for this General Assembly to permanently commemorate the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of the late Corporal Rusty Lee Washam by naming a certain bridge in his native Scott County in his honor; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the bridge spanning Buffalo Creek on State Route 63 in Scott County is hereby designated as the "Corporal Rusty Lee Washam Memorial Bridge" in recognition of the life of valor and death in combat of Corporal Rusty Lee Washam, United States Marine Corps.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge spanning the Buffalo Creek on State Route 63 in Scott County as the "Corporal Rusty Lee Washam Memorial Bridge". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, § 54-1-133.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the Commissioner of Transportation in writing that the

provisions of this resolution shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.